***Elections 2024***

We are inviting you to participate in our upcoming elections for NCOTA leadership positions. The elected positions are**President-Elect (1), Vice-President (1), Legal and Political Chair (1), and Membership Co-chair (1). Write-ins are welcome, but all nominations must be members of the association in good standing.**

**All other open board positions advertised are appointed and will be decided on by the board of directors.**

Elections will close May 15, 2024, with a term starting July 1, 2024.

Feel free to share with co-workers and encourage them to become active with NCOTA.

**President Elect**

Charlie Jo Cross

 Charley Jo Cross attended the University of North Carolina Wilmington obtaining a Bachelor's degree in psychology in 2016 and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill obtaining her Master’s degree in Occupational Therapy in 2018. She has focused her early career on expanding occupational therapy services in rural North Carolina and recognizes the importance of occupation-based practice to demonstrate the effectiveness of occupational therapy. She served as occupational therapist and Director of Occupational Therapy with Monarch where she developed an occupational therapy program, served in a leadership role, and provided occupational therapy services focused on mental health to those most in need. Most recently, she provides effective, evidence-based services to autistic individuals and their families as the Autism Specialist and Occupational Therapist at the Greensboro Center with UNC Chapel Hill’s TEACCH Autism Program. She is interested in serving as President-Elect and then President of the NCOTA Board to support the initiatives already in progress that support our professional organization and encourage the development of new initiatives that will continue to grow and strengthen our professional organization for years to come. Charley has been a member of NCOTA since she was a student in the UNC Chapel Hill MSOT program and has participated in a number of activities within the organization including presenting at conference, advocating for mental health OT services, actively participating in the Alliance for Mental Health Promotion group, facilitating a community of practice through the AMHP group, and serving as the Education and Research SIS co-chair for the past two years. As a member of the NCOTA Board for the past two years, Charley has championed initiatives for students, practitioners, and educators within our profession and has worked effectively with other board members in order to manage the mentorship program, foster connection between the board and all OT/OTA programs across the state, as well as support membership, engagement, and participation in our organization through conference activities and sponsored student memberships. Charley hopes continue to be involved with NCOTA by utilizing her leadership skills and professional experiences in the President-Elect and President positions over the next few years to support the other board members as they provide opportunities for engagement to occupational therapy practitioners and students across the state as well as promote our profession at the state and national level. Thank you for your consideration.

**Vice-President**

None-write ins may be submitted

**Legal and Political Co-chair**

Dawn Solomon

 I am interested in the open legal and political co-chair position. My extensive experience as a pediatric private practice owner, a role that has honed mu understanding of the unique needs of the pediatric population in our state, is a valuable asset. The limitations on access to care due to prior authorization processes, reimbursement rates, and insurance policy and procedures limits access to Occupational Therapy services. My vision is to improve communication with legislation and payor sources about Occupational therapy’s role in child development.

Carolyn Sithong

 Interested in learning about legalities for the profession and for my work as an entrepreneur. A growing trend in OT nationwide.

**Membership Co-chair**

Brittni Winslow

Brittni Winslow received her Masters in Occupational Therapy from East Carolina University in 2011 and has been working in pediatric practice ever since. She is currently the Executive Director and owner of Emerge Pediatric Therapy, a growing practice in the Triangle with occupational, speech and physical therapy. Additionally, Brittni owns an online  continuing education and resource company, The Therapeutic Edge.  In clinical practice, Brittni has a strong passion for working with children with needs in sensory processing, emotional regulation, executive function, social skills and promoting positive self concept. Her passion in those areas has informed how she leads within her company, and how she builds into her team. Since buying the practice in 2019, Brittni has received several awards such as Cary Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year, BBB Spark Award, and the Durham Magazine Woman of Achievement.